

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1052  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Larry M. Dickens of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Larry M. Dickens on May 8, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Larry Dickens was an exemplary public servant who devoted his entire professional life to the service of his country and his community both through his extensive and distinguished military career and the years spent representing the citizens of Anderson County and Oak Ridge as an elected public official; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly earned the admiration and respect of his peers and the public alike, Mr. Larry M. Dickens served his fellow citizens as the Anderson County Commissioner representing District 6, as a member of the Oak Ridge City Council, and as the Vice Mayor of Oak Ridge; in fulfilling the duties of these important elected positions, Mr. Dickens earned the respect of his colleagues in government and the citizens of Anderson County alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dickens further served his community as a member of the Oak Ridge Health and Educational Facilities Board and the United Way of Anderson County Board; and

WHEREAS, professionally, Larry Dickens served with acumen and alacrity as a licensing executive in the Y-12 Office of Technology Transfer, in which position he helped create private sector growth from Oak Ridge based intellectual property, a job to which he brought the same work ethic, sense of mission, teamwork, and pride in a job well done that he demonstrated on a daily basis in every aspect of his life; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his singular professional achievements, Mr. Dickens served in a number of capacities with the Federal Laboratory Consortium, including a term as Vice

Chairman, and was awarded numerous national and regional awards in technology transfer; and

WHEREAS, a 1969 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Larry was a letterman on the Top 10-ranked 1968 football team as an outstanding guard and long snapper on punts, skills which were sufficient to merit an athletic scholarship to the academically challenging North Carolina State University, where he played for the legendary Lou Holtz; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1969, Larry was, as an integral part of the Wildcat track team, one of the top five discus throwers in the state and, along with David Shaffer, formed the best discus team in the state, although they may be better remembered by their teammates as the guys who sometimes thought of certain rules regarding daily running as mere guidelines to which they should someday aspire; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the rigors of four years of Division 1-A, NCAA football, Larry Dickens earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from prestigious North Carolina State University and went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston University; and

WHEREAS, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Dickens courageously protected his fellow citizens and his country for twenty-eight years in the United States Army, the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the United States Army Reserve, where he served as commander of military aviation units flying the famous Huey and Cobra helicopter gun ships; and

WHEREAS, there was no one more devoted to his family than Larry Dickens; his devotion remained steadfast, unwavering, and readily apparent from the date of his marriage to Dianne on October 20, 1973, to the final day of his time on this earth; and

WHEREAS, Larry truly cherished and enjoyed the loving companionship of Dianne, his wife of thirty-three years, his best friend, his trusted confidante, his political advisor; together they were an inseparable team who raised two outstanding sons, Jody and John Dickens, and proved to be a formidable electoral force in city and county politics; and

WHEREAS, while a father's pride in his sons is often a cliché, the unmitigated love, devotion, and pride Larry had for Jody and John was openly displayed for all to see as well as widely and often evidenced in the form of pictures e-mailed to his many friends, pictures which

proudly chronicled their exploits and accomplishments first as outstanding athletes at Oak Ridge High School, then as graduates of the prestigious United States Air Force Academy, and later as they both capably served their country in much the same manner as Larry did; and

WHEREAS, Larry Dickens leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, an unparalleled passion and joy for life seldom seen, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, when the final accounting of a life well lived in the service of country and community and in boundless loyalty, devotion, and love as a spouse and father is made, it can be unequivocally stated without hesitation, reservation, or fear of contradiction that Larry M. Dickens was truly one of the good guys in this world, an officer and a gentleman who was unquestionably made of the right stuff; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Larry M. Dickens, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, as we pay homage to his sterling legacy as a public servant, community leader, and family man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to Dianne, Jody, John and the entire extended family of Mr. Dickens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.